

**Remarks**

This Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination ("RCE"). Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-8, 10-14, and 16 have been amended. Claims 1-17 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, and 16 are independent. The objections and rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

Claims 6 and 8 have been amended to overcome each ground of objection. Certain claims have been amended to more fully comply with U.S. practice. Claims 1, 6, and 16 have been amended to define an embodiment of the instant invention in which the information carrier feature includes a sequence of magnetizable individual elements. Entry of each of the amendments is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) - Ikeda

Claims 1-4 and 6-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 1205300 of Ikeda et al. (hereinafter "Ikeda").

The rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-11 under § 102(b) based on Ikeda is respectfully deemed to be obviated. The disclosure of Ikeda does not anticipate Applicants' presently claimed invention.

Ikeda's device is structurally different from Applicants' presently claimed machine. In the grounds of rejection associated with the rejection of claims 5 and 12-17 under § 103(a) (Office Action page 8), the examiner acknowledges that Ikeda fails to teach that "the information carrier includes a magnetic tape or a sequence of magnetizable individual elements." As indicated above, instant claim 1 defines an embodiment of the invention in which the information carrier feature includes a sequence of magnetizable individual elements. Accordingly, Applicants' claimed machine is not taught by Ikeda.

An advantage of the instant invention is the amount of information regarding machine elements such as the sleeve or the printing roller that can be stored within the claimed feature of the magnetizable individual elements. The magnetizable individual elements can be used both for improving the pre-registering and the transmittal of information. Only one sensor is needed for both functions. See Applicants' disclosure at, e.g., specification page 5, lines 5-12.

Similarly, instant claim 6 defines a process that employs an information carrier feature which includes a sequence of magnetizable individual elements.

Since Ikeda does not meet each feature of the claimed invention, Ikeda does not anticipate the invention defined by Applicants' claims 1-4 and 6-11.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Ikeda and Yang

Claims 5 and 12-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,674,169 to Yang.

The rejection of claims 5 and 12-17 under § 103(a) based on Ikeda and Yang is similarly deemed to be obviated. For at least the following reasons, the combined disclosures of Ikeda and Yang would not have rendered obvious Applicants' presently claimed invention.

The examiner asserts in pertinent part that Yang discloses "a positioning control setting system, where the information carrier comprises a magnetic tape or a sequence of magnetizable individual elements (173-1 and 180-1)" (Office Action page 8). Applicants respectfully disagree. Yang may disclose a "173-1 Magnetic tape" (column 26, line 33; Figure 173), but there is no teaching of "a sequence of magnetizable individual elements" having a reference number 180-1. In fact, there is no teaching whatsoever by Yang of Applicants' claimed feature of the information carrier having a sequence of magnetizable individual elements.

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Therefore, the combined disclosures of Ikeda and Yang would not have rendered obvious the invention defined by any of claims 5 and 12-17.

In view of the foregoing, this application is now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes that an interview might expedite prosecution, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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